

PRESS RELEASE
3 February 1992

In a press release issued today the London-based Islamic Council expressed deep concern and anxiety about the worsening political situation in Algeria.

The Council said that the cancellation of the second round of elections was a severe blow to the efforts to nurture democracy in Algeria.

The statement said that reports coming from Algeria show that instead of relenting, the ruling clique has decided to take the warpath against the people who stand for democracy and human rights. According to these reports, the state authorities are using force against worshippers in mosques throughout Algeria and are arresting large numbers of imams.

The authorities are also preventing the overflow of worshippers from mosques to the pavements outside to say their prayers. As not all mosques are large enough to take in all the worshippers who come to pray, the surplus has always prayed on pavements outside, not only in Algeria but in most Muslim countries.

The Islamic Council pointed out that prayer is a pillar of Islam and to prevent Muslims from fulfilling this Islamic duty is an outrageous sacrilege.

The Council said that real stability, peace and progress in Algeria can only be achieved through the adoption and practice of democratic principles and the respect for human rights.